

SA2 Healthy Living in Low Carbon Homes

Introduction

Our exploratory Healthy Living in low carbon homes research is focused on ‘consumer’ or ‘end-user’ experience. Our research is focused on those people who are moving into new build low carbon homes and those who are having their homes retrofitted with low carbon technologies as part of the WG ORP scheme. We will be exploring energy behaviours - why, when and how energy is used and what may motivate people to opt for low carbon living. We will also be examining potential wellbeing benefits (including health improvements, social benefits and financial household savings).

Methods

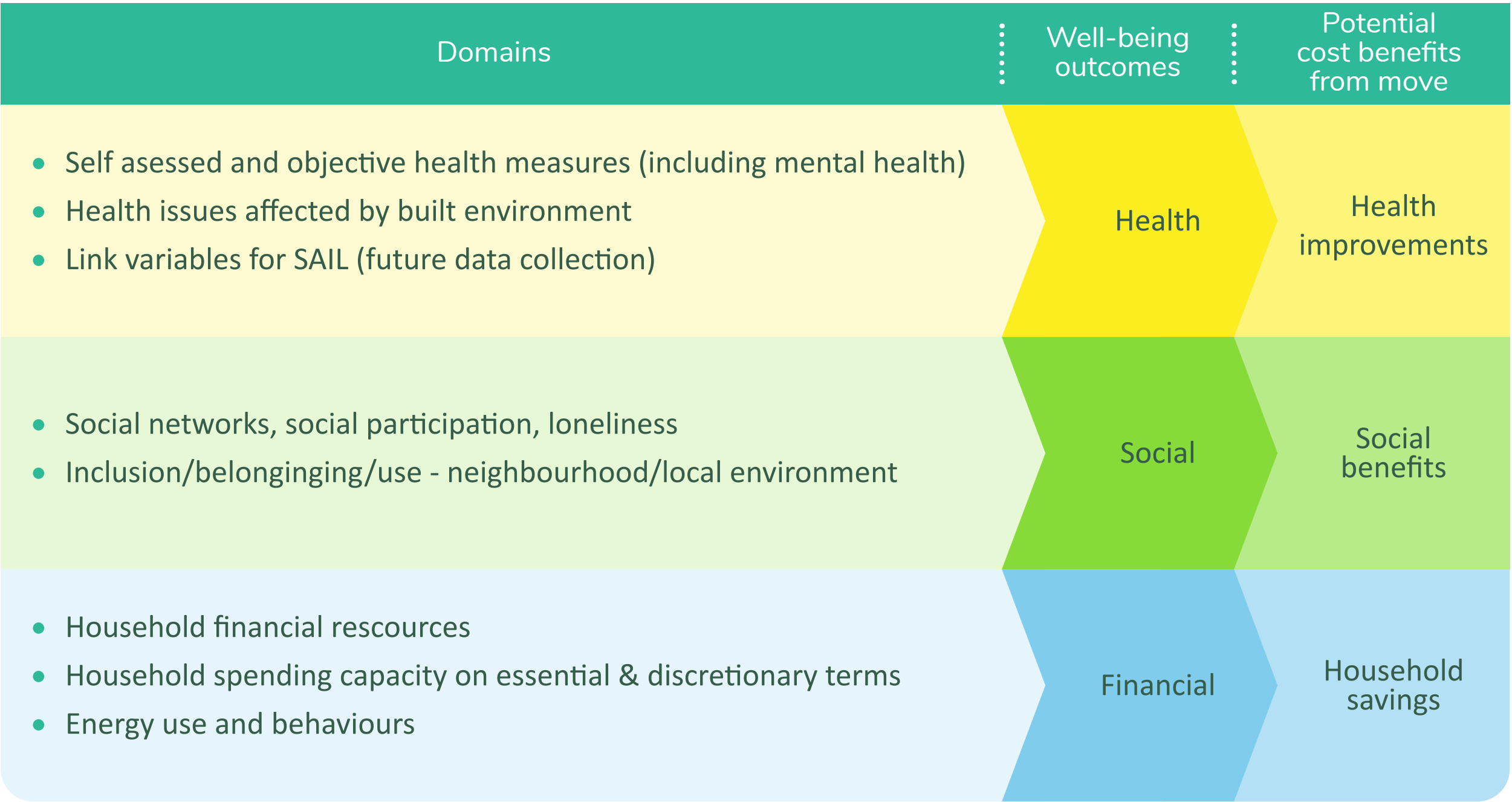
1. Pre-Move/Pre-Retrofit Survey
2. Qualitative interview and energy Diary 3 months post move/retrofit
3. Post Move/Post Retrofit Survey
4. Focus Groups - key stakeholders - RSLs, tenant liaison officers, architects, sub contractors

To date we have collected participant data at:

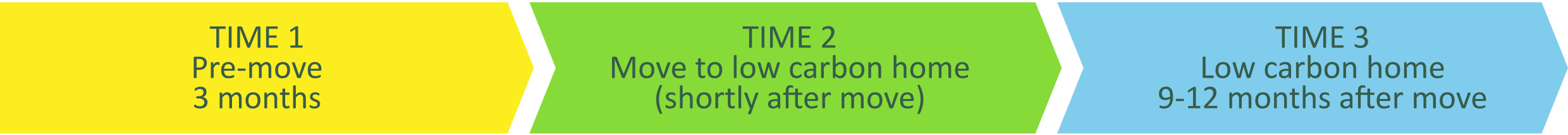
New Build Sites: Trelai, Cardiff, Bryn Bagl

Retrofit: Denbighshire, Anglesey, Vale of Glamorgan

Conceptuel Framework 1: well-being outcomes, domains & cost benefits
- moving to low carbon homes



Well-being assessed at two pionts in time (T1 & T3) to capture the outcome changes



People are using energy for variety of essential fundamental activities and to improve living for everyone. Using power and appliances. Paramount that we look at the impact that this have and the value that this may bring.

Our research is exploring the health social and financial wellbeing benefits of low carbon homes. We are working with an Expert panel and an Advisory group of older people with diverse energy interests and experiences and coopted members including NEA Cymru, Public Health Wales, Housing LIN and Care and Repair.

Regular workshops and correspondence with our panels have influenced our methodology and highlighted (via a process evaluation) additional areas for investigation and where the Social Return on Investment - theory of change could include additional feedback loops.

Our research supports the delivery of net zero targets by aiming to understand how low carbon homes influence and modify people’s energy behaviours and their day to day practices or conversely how people may modify technologies within low carbon buildings that may act differently to intended use.

AB-BS: ‘People are using energy for variety of essential fundamental activities and to improve living for everyone. Using power and appliances. Paramount that we look at the impact that this have and the value that this may bring.’

Results so far

The following quotes have been collected as part of the SROI or from Qualitative interviews with participants

S-RB: The model (theory of change) can help to determine which is the best approach (impact and cost).[...]we can also tease out better participation and engagement models [...]participatory models may well be the best way to ensure the success of such programmes. Feedback loops - creativity needs to be captured.

S-BS: Transition is only going to succeed if people are being involved in the process from the outset. Our relationship (to energy) is not about kwh but is more emotional - to affect people’s behaviour will involve finances, attitudes, security confidence etc.

NW: May be unintended outcomes for those who are already marginalized - we risk making situation worse - not bringing them on the journey. Need to match the different agendas.

Tenant Trelai - new build: I’m basically all about trying to save on energy, being 100% recyclable, using my recycling. So, I’m just trying to be more environmentally friendly and trying to keep my usage down so that my bills aren’t a staggering rate at the end of the month [...] I mean it is just a perfect home [...] This is the best property I’ve lived in, I think because of the style, it’s quite modern as well and it’s also very energy efficient, it’s very eco-friendly at the same time.[...] It’s really been thought about, the layout inside and it’s like they’ve actually used their imagination of how people are going to be living here, which is really nice.

Tenant Vale of Glamorgan - Declined Retrofit - I thought the energy efficiency changes would cause too much disruption.



Stakeholder involvement from the outset

